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ATTORNEY GENERAL ASHCROFT ANNOUNCES NATIONWIDE EFFORT TO REINTEGRATE OFFENDERS BACK INTO COMMUNITIES

DETROIT, MICHIGAN – Forty-nine states, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands will share \$100 million in grant funds through the new Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative, Attorney General John Ashcroft announced today. A total of 68 grants will be awarded to support efforts to ensure public safety and reduce victimization by helping returning offenders become productive members of their communities, providing education, job and life skills training, and substance abuse treatment, while carefully monitoring their activities after release.

The Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative is an unprecedented collaboration among the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, Labor and Veterans Affairs.

"This initiative helps provide individuals who have been released from prison the opportunity to become productive citizens and members of society," said Ashcroft. "The reentry programs aid in making sure these individuals will not return to a life of crime."

An estimated 630,000 offenders were released from prison last year, with an estimated 160,000 of those being violent offenders. The Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative will build on innovative reentry efforts in states for both juveniles and adults with the goal that these efforts serve as nationwide prototypes. Communities will utilize existing federal, state and local resources, while grant funds will be used to address additional specific needs. Local efforts will require close coordination among institutional and community corrections, law enforcement, education, job training and placement, and other service providers, including faith-and community-based organizations.

Reentry efforts will begin while offenders are still in correctional facilities, continue through offenders' transition back into the community and help sustain ex-offenders through services such as employment training and substance abuse and mental health treatment. Efforts will be tailored to any one, or combination of, the following age groups: Youth (ages 14 - 17); Young Adult (ages 18 - 24) and Adult (ages 25+). These efforts require close coordination among institutional corrections, law enforcement, community corrections and other community-based service providers.

The Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative is designed to address three stages an offender goes through when returning to the community. The process involves education, parenting instruction, vocational training, treatment and life skills programs while offenders are in institutions, services and supervision as they reenter the community and networks of agencies and individuals to support offenders as they become productive and law-abiding members of their communities.

The federal partners joined together to help state and local agencies navigate the complex field of existing grant programs and to assist them in accessing, redeploying, and leveraging those resources to support all components of a comprehensive reentry program.

The federal partners will fund a national evaluation of the Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative to look at the long-term effectiveness of the program.

A list of grantees is attached. More information about the Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative and other OJP programs is available on OJP's Website at www.ojp.usdoj.gov. Media should contact OJP's Office of Congressional and Public Affairs at 202/307-0703.

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OJP 02214

After hours contact: Adam Spector, 202/307-3912

SERIOUS AND VIOLENT OFFENDER REENTRY INITIATIVE FISCAL YEAR 2002 AWARDS

STATE	GRANTEE	AMOUNT*	CONTACT	PHONE NUMBER
Alabama	Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs	\$1,006,075	Don H. Lee	334/242-5820
	Alabama Department of Youth Services	\$974,006	Allen L. Peaton	334/215-3852
Alaska	Alaska Department of Health and Social Services	\$593,000	Tony Newman	907/465-1382
	Alaska Department of Corrections	\$1,407,000	Rhonda Lundborg	907/465-4640
Arizona	Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections	\$2,000,000	Bernie Warner	602/542-5597
Arkansas	Arkansas Department of Community Corrections	\$2,000,000	David Guntharp	501/682-9566
California	California Department of Corrections	\$2,000,000	Christine Ianieri	415/355-2584
	City of Oakland	\$1,000,000	Sara B. Bedford	510/238-6794
Colorado	Colorado Department of Corrections	\$1,988,531	Sean Ahlmeyer	719/226-4368

STATE	GRANTEE	AMOUNT*	CONTACT	PHONE NUMBER
Connecticut	Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services	\$2,000,000	Sabrina Trocchi	860/418-6648
Delaware	Delaware Health and Social Services	\$1,993,496	Walter A. Mateja	302/577-4465
District of Columbia	District of Columbia Justice Grant Administration	\$1,999,997	Jennifer M. Lynn-Whaley	202/727-0941
Florida	Florida Department of Corrections	\$1,000,000	Murray Brooks	850/410-4342
	Florida Department Juvenile Justice	\$1,000,000	Terri L. Buckley	727/570-3352
Georgia	Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council	\$2,000,000	Eden Freeman	404/559-4949
Hawaii	Hawaii Department of Public Safety	\$2,000,000	Shari Y. Tasaka	808/587-1367
Idaho	Idaho Department of Corrections	\$2,000,000	Erin N. Barbee	208/658-2102
Illinois	Illinois Department of Corrections	\$2,000,000	Dennis Dougherty	217/522-2666
Indiana	Indiana Department of Corrections	\$2,000,000	Rhonda Shipley	317/234-0323
Iowa	Iowa Department of Corrections	\$2,000,000	Anne H. Brown	515/242-5729

Kansas	Kansas Department of Corrections	\$1,000,000	Margie J. Phelps	785/296-3128
	Kansas Juvenile Justice Authority	\$1,000,000	Ted Martinez	785/296-4213
STATE	GRANTEE	AMOUNT*	CONTACT	PHONE NUMBER
Kentucky	Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice	\$1,411,899	Libby Mills	502/573-2738
Louisiana	Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections	\$2,000,000	Suzanne Sharp	225/342-6630
Maine	Maine Department of Corrections	\$1,999,936	Wayne R. Theriault	207/287-4374
Maryland	Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services	\$2,000,000	Cliff Burton	410/585-3338
Massachusetts	Massachusetts Department of Corrections	\$1,000,077	Helen Kary	508/422-3303
	Massachusetts Department of Youth Services	\$999,668	Christine Kenney	617/727-7575
Michigan	Michigan Department of Corrections	\$1,000,000	Jocelyn J. Fitzpatrick	517/373-3485
	Michigan Family Independence Agency	\$1,000,000	Darlene Edington	517/373-7797

Minnesota	Minnesota Department of Corrections	\$2,000,000	Mark Carey	651/642-0288
Mississippi	Mississippi Department of Corrections	\$2,000,000	Carol Kimble	662/745-6611
Missouri	Missouri Department of Social Services	\$700,688	Dennis M. Gragg	573/751-2799
	Missouri Department of Corrections	\$1,296,044	James Mitchell	573/526-6435
STATE	GRANTEE	AMOUNT*	CONTACT	PHONE NUMBER
Montana	Montana Department of Corrections	\$2,000,000	Nancy Knight	406/444-4914
Nevada	Nevada Department of Corrections	\$1,479,007	Dorothy Nash Holmes	775/887-3266
	Nevada Department of Human Resources	\$520,977	Gerthie Polk	702/486-5080
New Hampshire	New Hampshire Department of Corrections	\$1,999,923	Joseph Diament	603/625-5471
New Jersey	New Jersey State Parole Board	\$1,999,465	Melinda D. Schlager	609/777-0171
New Mexico	New Mexico Department of Corrections	\$1,999,996	Sherry M. Helwig	505/473-5105
New York	New York Department Correctional	\$999,183	Lori J. Torgerson	518/485-5307

	Services			
	New York State Office of Children and Family Services	\$1,000,189	Sylvia Rowlands	518/474-7886
North Carolina	North Carolina Department of Corrections North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention	\$1,300,000 \$700,000	Virginia Price Michael F. Haley	919/716-3758 919/715-5966
North Dakota	North Dakota Department of Corrections, Division of Juvenile North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Division of Field Services	\$785,779 \$314,243	Terry Traynor Patrick N. Bohn	701/328-7321 701/328-6664
STATE	GRANTEE	AMOUNT*	CONTACT	PHONE NUMBER
Ohio	Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction	\$1,998,014	Horst E. Gienapp	614/752-1607
Oklahoma	Oklahoma Department of Corrections	\$1,000,608	Bill McCollum	918/581-2002
	Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs	\$997,370	Nancy E. Williams	405/530-2838
	Oregon Department of Corrections			

Oregon		\$2,000,000	Tonya R Ruscoe	503/945-9053
Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania Department of Corrections	\$1,990,990	Angela Sager	717/731-7149
Rhode Island	Rhode Island Department of Corrections	\$1,907,014	Teresa S. Foley	401/462-1129
South Carolina	South Carolina Department of Corrections South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice	\$1,000,002 \$999,989	Bruce Burnett Howard Snider	803/896-1916 803/896-9235
South Dakota	South Dakota Department of Corrections	\$1,999,705	Jodi Heath	605/367-5158
Tennessee	Tennessee Department of Corrections Tennessee Department of Children Services	\$1,064,000 \$936,000	Rae Ann Coughlin Diane E. Craver	615/741-1000 615/741-9854
Texas	Texas Department of Criminal Justice	\$1,940,963	Paul D. Brown	936/437-6952
STATE	GRANTEE	AMOUNT*	CONTACT	PHONE NUMBER
Utah	Utah Department of Human Services Utah Department of Corrections	\$1,000,000 \$1,000,000	Tom Darais Belle Brough	801/538-4124 801/545-5707

Vermont	Vermont Department of Corrections	\$2,000,000	John Perry	802/241-2307
Virgin Islands	Virgin Islands Bureau of Corrections	\$1,000,000	Sonia I Maynard-Liburd	340/773-0295
Virginia	Virginia Department of Corrections	\$1,999,971	R. Mario Woodard	804/674-3219
Washington	Washington Department of Corrections	\$2,000,000	Victoria Roberts	360/753-1678
West Virginia	West Virginia Division of Corrections	\$1,000,288	Jan Chamberlain	304/843-4141
	West Virginia Division of Juvenile Services	\$998,753	Deborah D. Gillespie	304/558-6029
Wisconsin	Wisconsin Department of Corrections	\$2,000,000	Shelley Hagan	608/240-5917
Wyoming	Wyoming Department of Corrections	\$1,833,842	Patricia L. Odell	307/777-5691

^{*} Subject to final budget review.